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Shuster Announces Grant to the Lakemont Volunteer Fire Department in Blair County

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Lakemont Volunteer Fire Department has successfully secured an \$80,680 grant through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Fire Fighters Program (AFGP).

The \$80,680 grant will be used to purchase a variety of new operations and safety equipment for the department's firefighters. Some of the new equipment the department will purchase with the grant includes: new protective turn-out gear for the firefighters; a washer-extractor to maintain the turn-out gear; and a pump for the department's cascade breathing air system.

"I am pleased to hear that the Lakemont Volunteer Fire Department's grant was approved by the Department of Homeland Security," Shuster said. "Smaller fire departments like Lakemont would be unable to purchase the equipment they need without funding from this critical grant program. This is a victory for the fire department as well as the community it serves."

"The Lakemont Fire Company appreciates the grant award," said Chief Tom Sral, "because it allows us to replace gear and equipment that otherwise would not be replaced due to budget constraints."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments and rescue personnel to support the nation's first responders and the services they deliver. The Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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